

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

SUBJECT: **EMT-I CERTIFICATION**

REFERENCE NO. 1014

PURPOSE: To define the eligibility requirements and application procedures for EMT-I certification and recertification in Los Angeles County.

AUTHORITY: California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100078-100083

DEFINITIONS:

EMT-I Certifying authority: an agency or person authorized to certify and recertify, as an Emergency Medical technician-I, an individual who has complied with the requirements of this policy as follows:

1. The program director of an approved training program offered by a public safety agency may certify and recertify an individual who complies with the requirements of this policy.
2. The medical director of the local EMS agency shall certify and recertify all other applicants for EMT-I certification who have complied with the requirements of this policy.

Local EMS Agency: the agency, department, or office having primary responsibility for administration of emergency medical services in a county. In Los Angeles County, the local EMS Agency is the Department of Health Services, Emergency Medical Services Agency.

Certifying Examination: an examination either developed by the EMS Authority or the EMT-I Certifying Authority and administered or approved by the EMT-I Certifying Authority, given to an individual applying for certification as an EMT-I. The examination shall include both written and skills testing portions designed to determine an individual's competence for certification as an EMT-I.

Emergency Medical Technician-I or EMT: a person who has successfully completed an EMT-I Basic course, has passed all required tests, and who has been certified by an EMT-I Certifying Authority.

POLICY:

I. Certification

- A. To be eligible for EMT-I certification, an individual shall meet the following requirements:
 1. Have a course completion record or other documented proof of successful completion of an approved EMT-I Basic course.
 2. Apply for certification within two (2) years of being issued a course completion record.

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SUPERSEDES: 4-30-98

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APPROVED:


Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

3. Pass, by pre-established standards, a competency-based skills certifying examination administered by the approved EMT-I training program.
 4. Pass a competency-based written certifying examination administered by the approved EMT-I certifying authority.
 5. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
 6. Meet all requirements set forth in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code. (Ref. No. 1014.1)
- B. An individual currently licensed in California as a paramedic is deemed to be certified as an EMT-I.
- C. An individual who meets one of the following criteria shall be eligible for EMT-I certification by successfully completing an approved EMT-I refresher course and completing the certification requirements in Section I, A, 2-6:
1. Possesses or has possessed in the last four (4) years a valid California EMT-I certification.
 2. Possesses or has possessed in the last four (4) years a valid out-of-state or a National Registry EMT-Basic certification and has completed training equivalent to the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Medical Technician National Standard Curriculum.
 3. Has possessed a valid California EMT-II certification or paramedic certification or license.
 4. Possesses or has possessed a valid out-of-state or National Registry EMT-Intermediate certification, or paramedic certification or license.
 5. Has documentation of successful completion of an out-of-state EMT-I Basic course within the last two (2) years which meets the requirements of the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Medical Technician National Standard Curriculum.
- D. Certification procedures for candidates previously certified as EMT-I's, but whose certification has expired for more than four (4) years, are the same as an initial certification.
- E. Certification as an EMT-I shall be for a maximum of two (2) years from the date of the EMT-I certifying authority examination, except that in the case of an individual currently licensed as a paramedic, who is deemed to be certified as an EMT-I pursuant to subsection B, the expiration date of the EMT-I certification shall be two (2) years from the expiration date of the current paramedic license.

NOTE: An individual who exercised the above option must complete certification requirements in Section III, A, 1-5 prior to expiration of the EMT-I certification. This includes a written and skills examination.

- F. The certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.

II. Certification by Challenge

- A. To be eligible for EMT-I certification by challenge, an individual shall:
1. Meet one of the following requirements;
 - a. Currently be licensed as a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, vocational nurse, or as a paramedic licensed or certified out-of-state.
 - b. Provide documented evidence of having successfully completed an emergency medical service training program of the Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard of the United States, within the preceding two(2) years which meets the Department of Transportation (DOT) EMT-Basic course guidelines.
 - c. Provide documented evidence of active service in the last two (2) years in a prehospital emergency medical classification of the Armed Services, including the Coast Guard of the United States, which does not have formal recertification requirements.
 2. Successfully complete an EMT-I refresher course approved in Los Angeles County.
 3. Complete the certification requirements as defined in Section I, A, 2-6.
- B. Challenge candidates shall be permitted to take the EMT-I certifying skills and written examinations one time only. Unsuccessful challenge candidates will be required to take an EMT-I Basic course and meet all other eligibility requirements to be certified as an EMT-I.

III. Recertification

- A. To be eligible for EMT-I recertification, an individual shall:
1. Possess a current California EMT-I certification.
 2. Possess documentation of successful completion of one of the following:
 - a. An approved EMT-I refresher course.
 - b. Twenty-four (24) hours of approved EMT-I continuing education (CE) obtained at any time throughout the current certification period.
 - c. A letter from an approved paramedic training program indicating the candidate has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of approved EMT-I continuing education.

NOTE: All candidates recertifying by CE must show documentation of classroom and laboratory instruction in basic life support knowledge and skills to include airway management and

cardiopulmonary resuscitation as described in Section IV, A of this policy.

3. Pass once every four (4) years a competency-based skills certifying examination administered by an approved EMT-I training program or BLS CE provider. A minimum of nine (9) skills must be tested including:
 - a. Patient Assessment
 - b. Ventilation via Bag-Valve-Mask Device
 - c. One Rescuer CPR: Adult
 - d. One Rescuer CPR: Infant
 - e. Assist with Administration of Physician Prescribed Medications (Expanded Scope of Practice)
 - f. Two optional skills from the Los Angeles County EMT-I Curriculum
4. Pass once every four (4) years a competency-based certifying written examination administered by the certifying authority.
5. Meet all requirements set forth in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code (Ref. No. 1014.1).

NOTE: Certification is for two (2) years. EMT-Is who are not in a testing cycle will be required to test if the above requirements are not completed prior to the expiration date.

IV. Recertification by Continuing Education

- A. EMT-Is recertifying with continuing education shall submit:
 1. Course completion certificates showing a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of classroom and laboratory instruction. Not including recertification testing, in basic life support knowledge.
 2. Documentation of mandatory skills to include airway management and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). A current AHA Healthcare Provider card or American Red Cross Professional Rescuer card will meet airway management and CPR requirements.
- B. An individual who is currently licensed in California as a paramedic may be given credit for continuing education hours in basic life support earned as a paramedic to satisfy the continuing education requirements for EMT-I recertification.

V. Application for Certification through the Los Angeles County EMS Agency

- A. Individuals eligible for EMT-I certification through the Los Angeles County EMS Agency may be certified by submitting an application packet consisting of:
 1. An EMT-I Certification Application form (Ref. No. 1014.1).
 2. A non-refundable fee.

3. Two (2) passport size color photographs for EMT-I Certification card.
 4. Three (3) self-addressed, stamped, legal sized envelopes. Only one envelope if the EMT-I candidate is not in a testing cycle.
- B. Initial certification, out-of-county certification, or challenge certification candidates must complete a "BID-7" fingerprint card to be submitted by the EMS Agency to the California Department of Justice for a criminal background check.

Recertification, out-of-county certification, or challenge certification candidates must:

1. Provide a recent certification card and/or other qualifying documents.
 2. Submit an EMT-I application packet every two (2) years prior to the EMT-I's certification expiration date.
 3. Pay the established fee.
 4. Complete a "BID-7" fingerprint to be submitted by the EMS Agency to the California Department of Justice for a criminal background check, if previous certification was out-of-county or prior to 1991.
- C. Application packets must be submitted to

County of Los Angeles EMS Agency
Office of Prehospital Certification
10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

VI. Training Program Responsibilities

To comply with the requirements of the certification/recertification application process, an approved EMT-I training program shall:

- A. Issue a course completion certificate to each person who has successfully completed the EMT-I Basic course or refresher course.
- B. Submit a course completion roster within 15 days to:

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CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Policy Manual:

Ref. No. 906, **Criteria for Approval of EMT-I Training Programs**